

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05440 181350Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W  
-----094635 181354Z /43

O 181336Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5712  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 05440

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS CY EG  
SUBJECT: ATTACK BY PALESTINIAN TERRORIST IN NICOSIA

REF: NICOSIA 451

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND VP MUBARAK  
THIS MORNING, A MESSAGE WAS BROUGHT IN REPORTING TERRORIST  
ACT OF TWO PALESTINIANS AT THE AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES  
SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION (AAPSO) CONFERENCE BEING HELD  
AT NICOSIA HILTON HOTEL (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO THE  
EGYPTIAN REPORT, WHICH APPARENTLY CAME FROM THE EGYPTIAN  
EMBASSY IN NICOSIA, THE EGYPTIAN NATIONAL WHO WAS KILLED  
WAS YUSUF SIBAI, CHIEF EDITOR OF AHRAH AND A FORMER  
PRESIDENT OF APPSO. THE EGYPTIAN REPORT WENT ON TO SAY  
THAT SOME FORTY HOSTAGES WERE BEING HELD, AMONG THEM  
FOUR EGYPTIAN NATIONALS. ONE WAS IDENTIFIED AS KAMEL  
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BAHA AL-DIN A MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.  
THE TERRORISTS HAD REPORTEDLY DEMANDED THAT ALL THE  
ARAB AMBASSADORS APPEAR AT THE NICOSIA HILTON WITHIN  
THE HOUR, FAILING WHICH THEY WOULD BLOW UP THE HOTEL.  
THERE WAS NO INDICATION AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE  
PALESTINIANS.

2. ALTHOUGH SIBAI HAS LONG BEEN A CLOSE ASSOCIATE, THE PRESIDENT TOOK THE NEWS CALMLY. HE GAVE IMMEDIATE INSTRUCTIONS TO VP MUBARAK TO HAVE THE MFA ISSUE A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACK. HE ALSO GAVE INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE "KHARTOUM EIGHT", WHO HE EXPLAINED TO ME HAVE FOR PAST SEVERAL MONTHS BEEN ALLOWED TO LIVE WITH THEIR FAMILIES BUT UNDER HOUSE ARREST, BE ROUNDED UP AT ONCE AND JAILED AND THAT WORD BE PASSED TO THE PLO THAT APPROPRIATE ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM IF TERRORISTS AT THE NICOSIA HILTON KILL ANYONE ELSE. SADAT TOLD ME THAT THIS LATTER ACTION SHOULD WARN ABU IYAD, WHOM HE SUSPECTS IS BEHIND THE NICOSIA HILTON INCIDENT.

3. I SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED ON ACTING FONMIN BOUTROS GHALI ON OTHER MATTERS. AS I CAME IN HE WAS SPEAKING ON PHONE TO CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR. LATTER HAD APPARENTLY JUST ADVISED HIM OF THE NICOSIA HILTON INCIDENT. ACCORDING TO CYPRIOT INFO, THE TWO PALESTINIANS ARE FROM ERITREA. CYPRIOT MIN INTERIOR SEEKING NEGOTIATE RELEASE OF HOSTAGES.

4. GHALI CONFIRMED THAT MUBARAK HAD JUST CALLED HIM WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO ISSUE A CONDEMNATORY STATEMENT. ACTING ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, GHALI HAS DECIDED TO DELAY PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO WHAT ORGANIZATION THE CONFIDENTIAL

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TWO TERRORISTS REPRESENT. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE PRESIDENCY AND HIS OWN SUBORDINATES WILL REACT IN A MANNER BLAMING ALL PALESTINIANS FOR THIS LATEST TERRORIST ACT. THIS, IN GHALI'S VIEW, SHOULD IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BE AVOIDED. HE AFFIRMED, HOWEVER, THAT AS SOON AS IDENTITY OF THE PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS IS KNOWN, THE MFA WILL ISSUE A CONDEMNATORY STATEMENT. HE ASKED THAT WE KEEP HIM ADVISED OF ANY INFORMATION THAT WE MAY RECEIVE ON THE INCIDENT. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PALESTINIANS, TERRORISTS, DEATHS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Message ID:** e8ef07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 78 NICOSIA 451  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 3550095  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ATTACK BY PALESTINIAN TERRORIST IN NICOSIA  
**TAGS:** PINS, CY, EG, (SIBAI, YUSUF)  
**To:** STATE NICOSIA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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